

36. (Amended) A cable headend for a television program delivery system which uses groups of satellite transponders to deliver television programs in digital format to subscribers on a concatenated cable system, wherein the cable headend groups television programs distributed to subscribers into priority levels, the cable headend comprising:

means for receiving transponded signals containing digital video programs;

integrated receiver means for receiving the transponded signal;

means for grouping transponded signals into priority levels wherein a first group of transponded signals are priority level one and a second group of transponded signals are priority level two;

means for demultiplexing the priority level one transponded signals into priority level one digital programs and priority level two transponded signals into priority level two digital programs;

first means for selecting priority level one digital programs;

second means for selecting priority level two digital programs; and

means for combining selected priority level one and priority level two digital programs for distribution to subscribers.

REMARKS

Claims 28, 30-32, and 35-36 are amended to correct minor typographical errors or clarify the claims. It is respectfully asserted that all claims are patentable over the prior art.

The specification is amended on page 1 to indicate the serial numbers, filing dates, and patent numbers (where appropriate) of the previously disclosed copending applications which have been incorporated by reference. Similarly, the specification is amended on pages 43 and 47 to indicate the serial numbers, filing dates, and patent numbers for two previously disclosed copending PCT applications which have also been incorporated by reference.

No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment.

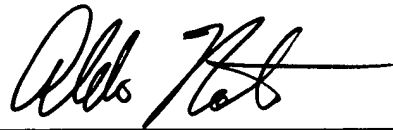
Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:



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